



FENWICK ISLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

2023 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Susan Brennan, Commission Chair



WELCOME

Introduction to 2023 Comprehensive Plan Planning

Commission Survey Results

Community Character

Resiliency-Sea Level Rise & Coastal Flooding

Transportation, Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety

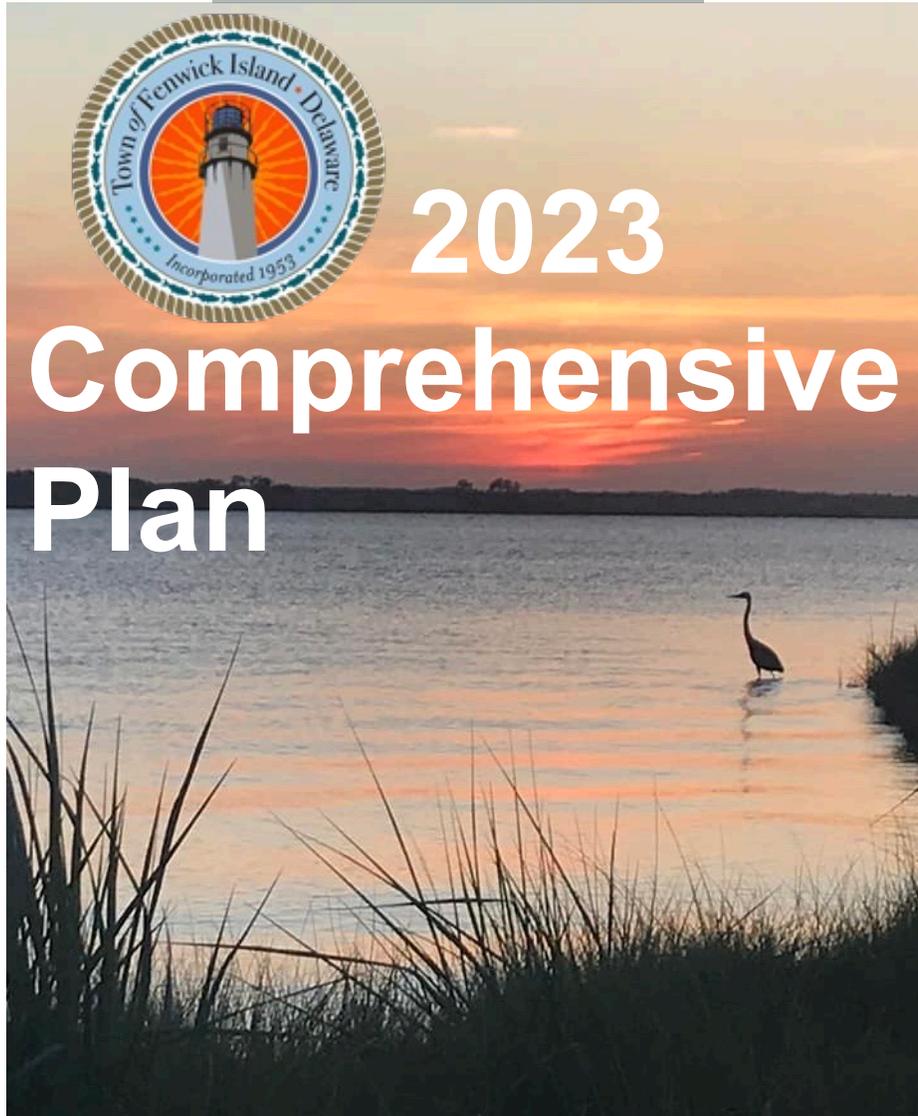
Inland Waters-Little Assawoman Bay & Fenwick Canals

Ocean, Beach, Dunes

Fenwick's Future



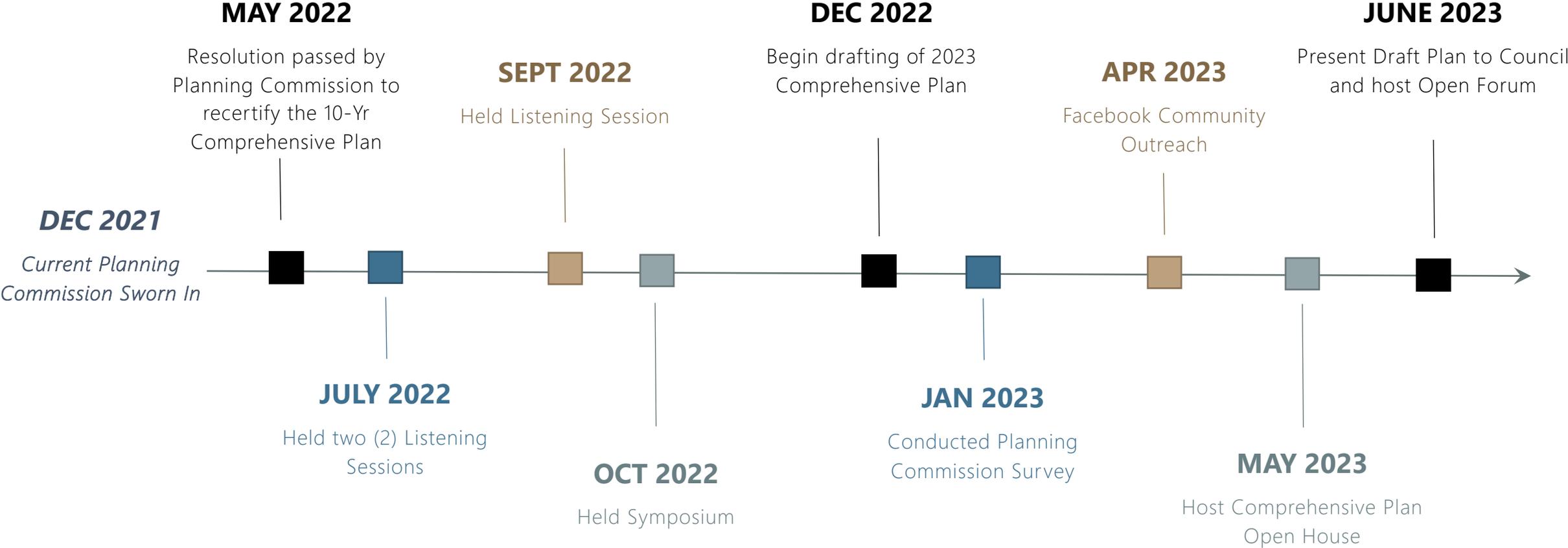
INTRODUCTION



- A comprehensive plan **guides** future development or redevelopment of a community
- The plan is intended to provide the community with an **outline of policies and actions** on which to rely when responding to evolving challenges and opportunities.
- It provides the **framework for planning, design and development** decision making.
- It is utilized when applying for grants

The Comprehensive Plan is intended to **encourage vigilance** to our town's history and heritage, and ensure **continuation of that vision and character**, even as increased development occurs in/around the town.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKING TIMELINE



SURVEY INFORMATION - as of FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Start of Survey/Invitation Data:

861 Total Invitations Sent
 -16 Bounced (undeliverable email)
 -31 Opted Out (email opted out of receiving survey monkey emails)

814 Net email Invitations

510 Reminder emails (Send Us Some Love) sent 2/14/23

	<u>As of 2/27</u>	<u>Percent of Net invitations</u>	
Opened Email	676	83%	
Unopened Email	136	17%	
Clicked through to Begin Survey	418	51%	Note: 51% (418/814) of those who opened the email, clicked to begin the survey.
Survey Completed from Email Link	343	82%	Note: 82% (343/418) of those who started the survey have completed it.
Survey Completed from Web Link	127		Note: Group that utilized our Web Link on the Town Website page (visitors and/or other)
Survey Completed from Paper Submission	48		
Total Respondents	518		

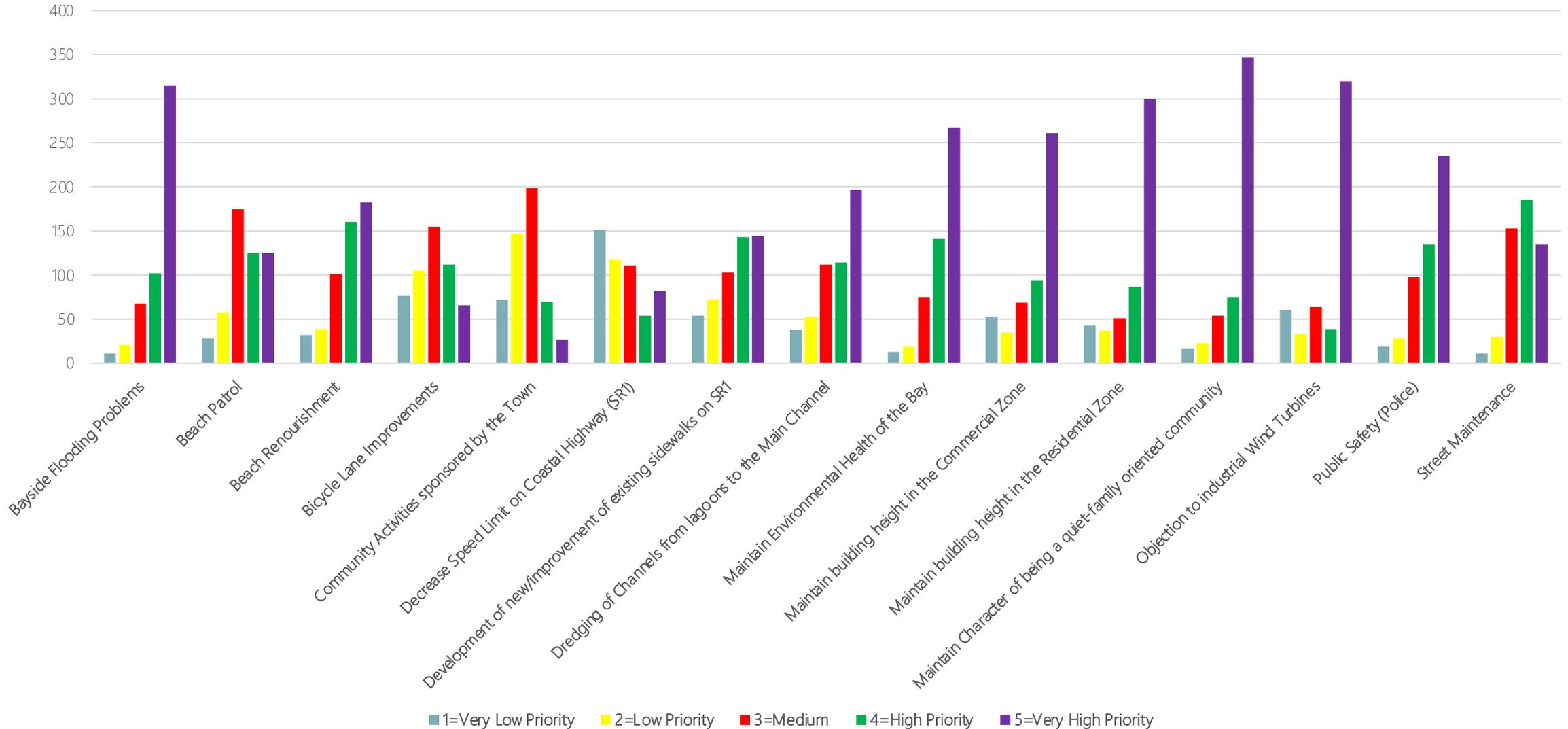
MAKEUP OF REPONSES (as of Today):

Full-Time Resident of Fenwick Island	120	23.92%
Part-Time Resident of Fenwick Island	368	70.74%
Fenwick Island Business Owner	15	2.80%
Work in Fenwick Island	9	1.78%
Visitor to Fenwick Island	<u>28</u>	5.34%

Note: One person didn't complete the first 2 questions.

Note: One person didn't complete the 2nd question.

QUESTION 3: HOW WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE THESE TOPICS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?



QUESTION 3: HIGHEST PRIORITY SURVEY TOPICS*

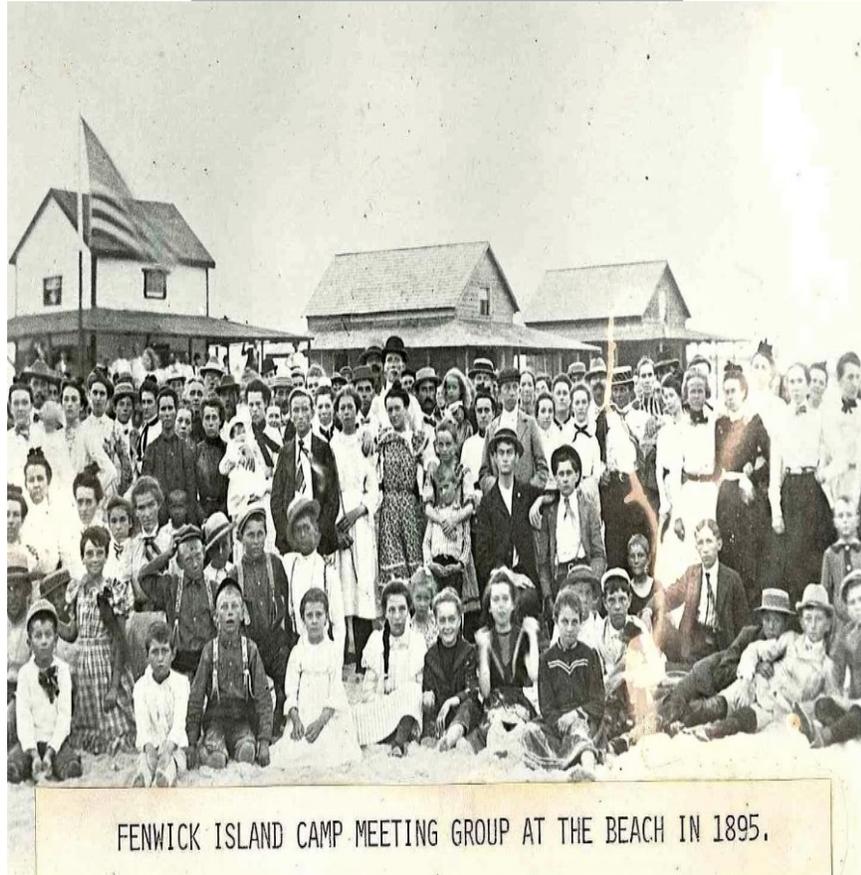
- Main character of being a quiet, family-oriented community (*347 responses*)
- Objection to industrial wind turbines (*320 responses*)
- Bayside flooding problems (*315 responses*)
- Maintain building height in the residential zone (*300 responses*)
- Maintain environmental health of the bay (*267 responses*)
- Maintain building height in the commercial zone (*261 responses*)

* Minimum of 250 responses at the Very High Priority rating

QUESTION 6: PLEASE LIST UP TO THREE (3) THINGS ABOUT FENWICK ISLAND THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU:



COMMUNITY CHARACTER



- The town was incorporated in 1953
- Established as a quiet, family-oriented community
- Designed as a community rather than a resort
- Primarily residential with a well-defined business district

February 2023 Survey showed maintaining the character of the community as a top priority for the 500+ respondents



RESILIENCY-SEA LEVEL RISE (SLR) & COASTAL FLOODING

GOAL:

To study and make available, best practice mitigation data, suggestions, recommendations, and procedures to reduce inundation and tidal flooding risks in coordination with all of Fenwick Island property owners

RESILIENCY CHALLENGES

- Tidal Flooding has become common place in Fenwick Island's bayside roadways, yards and drainage ditches
- Frequency and volume of flood water has increased notably over the past two decades
- Flooding from rainfall events and "sunny day", tidally induced occurrences are being considered within Fenwick Island's vulnerability analysis
- As sea level rise (SLR) continues to impact rainfall distribution in the mid-Atlantic, there is potential for more frequent, shorter duration storms and weather events with greater intensity contributing to the flooding



RESILIENCY ACTION PLAN

- The Town, with the State of Delaware and other communities began sustainability and resiliency studies over a decade ago with many now beginning to discuss municipal resiliency options
- Fenwick Island has continued to support the need to recognize the severity of the effects of SLR utilizing numerous resources and coordinated efforts, with Town Council, Infrastructure Committee, Department of Public Works, civil engineering firms, Sussex County, DNREC, DeIDOT, The State of Delaware, USACE and other coastal municipalities to address inundation issues as a community
- The Infrastructure Committee will be holding a symposium in late August -- *Watch for more information*





TRANSPORTATION PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST SAFETY

GOAL:

To provide a transportation environment that enables and promotes safe movement for pedestrians and bicyclists between and along priority destinations in and around Town, such as Bunting Avenue, town streets and SR1

TRANSPORTATION, PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST SAFETY CHALLENGES

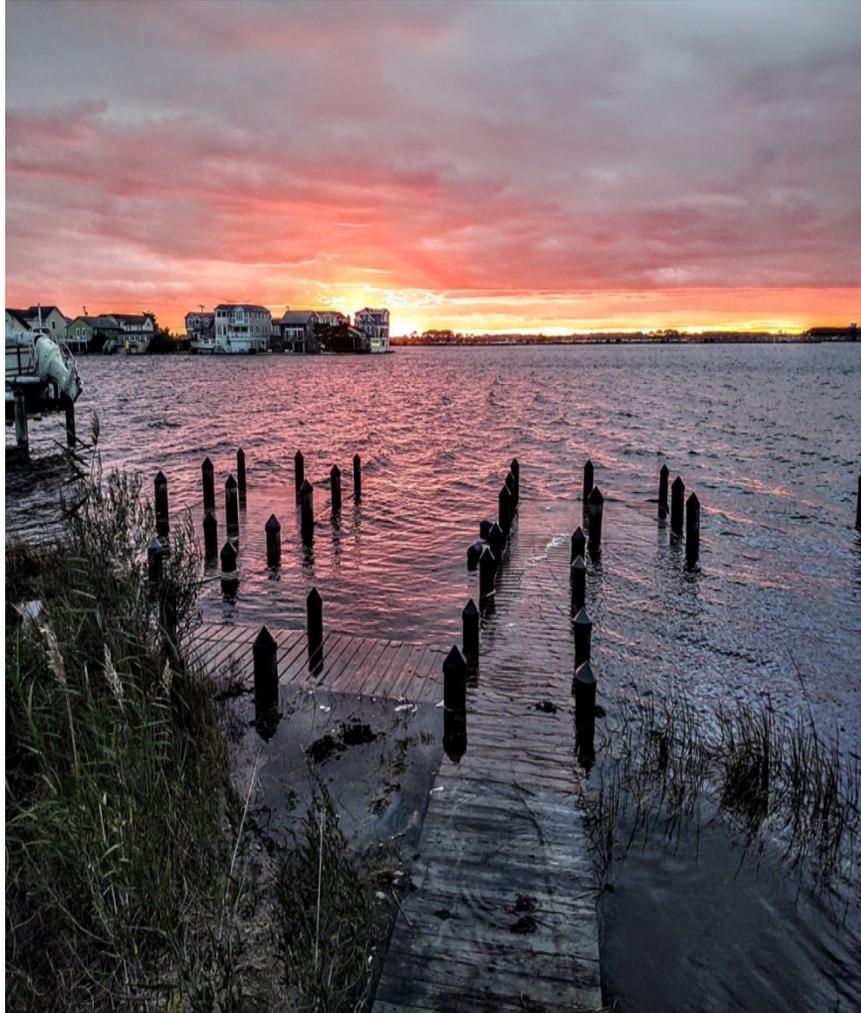
- Lack of continuous network of ADA compliant sidewalks
- Crosswalks without enhanced traffic controls
- Crosswalk law limitations which currently require pedestrian to be “in” the crosswalk before drivers are required to yield
- Traffic volume along streets utilized by pedestrians and bicyclists
- Speeding and other traffic offenses



TRANSPORTATION, PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST SAFETY ACTION PLAN

- Improve pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure with particular emphasis on obtaining ADA compliant sidewalks and enhancing safety features for crosswalks along SR1
- Increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by studying, implementing and monitoring traffic calming measures throughout Town streets and along SR1, with emphasis on prioritizing law enforcement practices and public education
- Advocate for a change in Delaware law to require vehicles to stop at crosswalks when a pedestrian is in or waiting at the end of a crosswalk





THE INLAND WATERS- LITTLE ASSAWOMAN BAY & FENWICK CANALS

GOAL:

Maintain the quality and physical traits of the Little Assawoman Bay, improve environmental quality and improve navigability for recreational boating

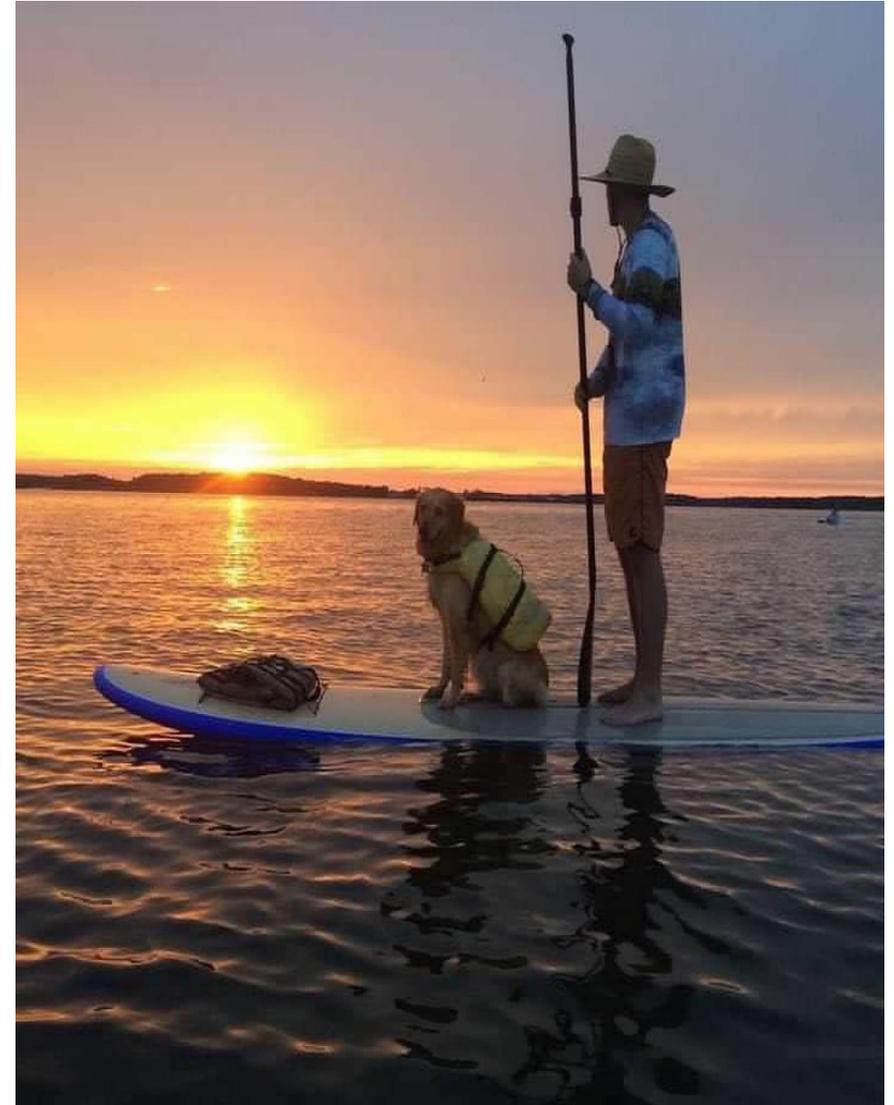
INLAND WATERS CHALLENGES

- Health of the Little Assawoman Bay
- Navigation markers not clearly marked or monitored
- Shoaling in channels
- Very shallow water depth



INLAND WATERS ACTION PLAN

- Support dredging of the channels into and around Fenwick
- Support and encourage DNREC to have and maintain navigation markers that are timely placed, repaired and monitored
- Support measures to protect and improve water quality in the Little Assawoman Bay and Fenwick canals
- Encourage improved measures of managing storm water run-off along the watershed area of Little Assawoman Bay
- Encourage regional planning offices to seek bay friendly development





OCEAN, BEACH, DUNES

Goal:

Maintain and improve physical integrity,
environmental quality, safety, and access to the
ocean, beach, and dunes

OCEAN, BEACH, DUNES CHALLENGES

- Beach erosion
- Sea Level Rise (SLR)
- Accessibility of pedestrian dune crossings
- Protecting marine life and the natural state of the ocean environment
- Storm events



OCEAN, BEACH, DUNES ACTION PLAN

- Dune preservation
- Continue to maintain a quality beach patrol
- Keeping beach clean and litter free
- Maintaining beach access via Mobi mats and beach patrol vehicle for dune crossings
- Continue collaboration with DNREC, State of DE, USACE and Federal Government
- Remain engaged in offshore wind development discussions
- Preservation of “primitive” natural beach areas





FENWICK'S FUTURE

To be a quiet family oriented and walkable community which protects its natural bay and beach environment while including a desirable and sustainable primary residential area as well as a vibrant commercial area.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMISSION: WHAT'S NEXT

- MAY 21-23 COLLATE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM OPEN HOUSE
- JUNE 5 DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AVAILABLE ON TOWN WEBSITE
- JUNE 8 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DRAFT PRESENTED LIVE, AND ON ZOOM, TO TOWN COUNCIL AND PUBLIC TOWN HALL @ 3:00 PM*
- JUNE 23 PLANNING COMMISSION EXPECTED TO ASK TOWN COUNCIL TO APPROVE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO THE STATE OF DELAWARE, PLUS** REVIEW PROCESS.

* Meeting information and details will be available on the Town Website

** PLUS = Preliminary Land Use Service

YOUR PLANNING COMMISSION TEAM



SUSAN BRENNAN
Commission Chair



JULIE LEE
Committee Member



WINNIE LEWIS
Committee Member,
Emeritus



NATALIE
MAGDEBURGER
Committee Member



ANN RILEY
Committee Member



RICH ROBINSON
Committee Member



PAT SCHUCHMAN
Town Manager



LOIS TWILLEY
Committee Member



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Please forward questions or comments to us at:
Fiplanningcommission@fenwickisland.org

For ongoing updates on all Town meetings and events, please visit fenwickisland.delaware.gov

